



Minutes of Special Mayor and Council Meeting

Approved by Mayor and Council
on November 25, 2008

Date of Meeting: June 10, 2008

The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson met in special session in the Mayor and Council Chambers in City Hall, 255 West Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona, at 8:22 p.m., on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, all members having been notified of the time and place thereof.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Walkup and upon roll call, those present and absent were:

Present:

Regina Romero	Council Member Ward 1
Rodney Glassman	Council Member Ward 2
Karin Uhlich	Council Member Ward 3
Shirley C. Scott	Council Member Ward 4
Steve Leal	Council Member Ward 5
Nina J. Trasoff	Vice Mayor, Council Member Ward 6
Robert E. Walkup	Mayor

Absent/Excused:

None

Staff Members Present:

Mike Hein	City Manager
Michael Rankin	City Attorney
Roger W. Randolph	City Clerk
Mike Letcher	Deputy City Manager

2. FINANCE: FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

Mayor Walkup announced City Manager's communication number 298, dated June 10, 2008 would be received into and made a part of the record. He asked the City Clerk to read Resolution 20960 by number and title only.

Resolution No. 20960 relating to finance; finally determining and adopting estimates of proposed expenditures by the City of Tucson for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, declaring that together said expenditures shall constitute the budget of the City of Tucson for such Fiscal Year.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Trasoff, duly seconded, to pass and adopt Resolution 20960.

Mayor Walkup asked if there were any discussions.

Council Member Uhlich said there were a couple of critical issues raised that Mayor and Council had expressed concerns about and discussed with staff. One issue was to make a commitment to sustain the ratio of public safety officers per one thousand residents. Additional time could be spent on the specific numbers and line items. Invariably, explanations would be offered and then a new set of questions would come forward, not only from various people in the community, but from the Mayor and Council.

Council Member Uhlich said the questions regarding the numbers could go on and on. The one question Mayor and Council did not have was whether or not there was a commitment from the Mayor and Council to direct as a policy direction as part of the budget adoption that they sustain the ratio achieved during Fiscal Year 2008 of public safety officers per one thousand residents. Council Member Uhlich said she wished they could add additional officers beyond that, but as yet she had not heard of any progress in identifying resources to do so. Mayor and Council had made a commitment to the City's public safety officers and to the community. She believed that was one way that the Mayor and Council could make the policy direction clear and that was one piece that she suggested be incorporated into the motion.

Council Member Uhlich said the second thing she wanted to raise had to do with the Mayor and Council's commitment under the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to sustain their level of investment in mass transit. She said she would like to add, as policy direction, in order to ensure they remained in compliance with that commitment, that the Mayor and Council explicitly state as policy direction that the Mayor and Council comply with the RTA commitment to sustain the community's investment in mass transit per the 2009 General Fund figures reflected in the 2009 Budget Report.

Vice Mayor Trasoff said she accepted the modifications to her previous motion from Council Member Uhlich.

Mayor Walkup addressed Mike Hein, City Manager, in regard to a comment made by Council Member Uhlich, and said he wanted to clarify the same thing because the Mayor and Council had to be very careful what they said about adding or replacing people. He asked if there were any other city departments beside the Police Department that would be allowed, or had the budget, to replace attrition for the budget year.

Mike Hein, City Manager, affirmed that the Tucson Fire Department was in a similar position. Other city departments would replace positions on a case by case basis. As Mayor and Council would recall, the City started at 1.8 officers per one thousand and was trying to increase it to 2.4 officers per one thousand. As he understood the motion, they would maintain the ratio they were currently at. That meant if there was growth in Tucson's population, the City would have to find resources to add more officers.

Mayor Walkup said, being more specific, that on June 5, 2008, the City graduated thirty-six police officers, which replaced from the attrition standpoint. His understanding was that, later in June 2008, the City would add another class expecting thirty recruits, which would also continue to replace the attrition. Mayor Walkup said he thought the budget allowed for three classes. His understanding was the sixty-six recruits, plus another thirty, should be the number of police officers expected to replace attrition.

Council Member Uhlich said she believed that to be correct.

Mayor Walkup said Council Member Uhlich stated in an earlier discussion that if, by midyear, the Mayor and Council were able to find a way to add a fourth class, they should address the issue of sustainability at that time.

Council Member Uhlich said in offering that policy direction, she wanted to offer the Chief of the Tucson Police Department the opportunity to elect how best to ensure the City retained the ratio. She said it was important to her that Mayor and Council received regular updates on the ratio of officers per the population and that the City did not slip on the ratio. If that meant adding a fourth class or other mechanisms, the key community benchmark, and the benchmark that mattered, was to have no slippage on the Mayor and Council's commitment and coverage in public safety.

Mayor Walkup said that was extraordinary important.

Council Member Leal said he thought part of the difficulty he had was that he increasingly felt that he was groping, both in terms of understanding the implications of different things he was asked to vote on and getting information in a context such that he understood that what he needed, he was given. He would not go through the series of questions, whether it be transit issues, Rio Nuevo, or an adequate number of classes for retention in the police department. He said he did not have the comfort level to feel secure about what he was doing. Council Member Leal described how he felt as groping to vote on the budget for Fiscal Year 2009. On one hand, the Mayor and Council tried to look to the future, but it was hard to do that when they were unsure of the baseline the City stood on.

Council Member Leal said it was easy to be clear as to what he wanted and what he thought the City should have, but it was a challenge when the Mayor and Council did not know what it rested on, and how to develop from that, in order to get what their vision desired. He said he lacked the comfort level to vote for the budget as it was. It was often said that the budget was the crystallization of values and he did not think the Mayor and Council was able to see whether the budget adequately reflected the City's values or put the Mayor and Council in the position to preserve the community's values. He said that was the reason he would be voting against the motion.

Vice Mayor Trasoff said she wanted to clarify one of the amendments Council Member Uhlich had made, which said the Mayor and Council would re-evaluate the budget mid-year. Vice Mayor Trasoff said she presumed if there was a turnaround, the Mayor and Council could review the budget sooner.

Council Member Uhlich said she had stated the Mayor and Council would get regular updates.

Vice Mayor Trasoff said Mayor Walkup stated that he wanted to retain the current levels of personnel and be able to hire in the police and fire departments. She suggested when the Mayor and Council received the first evaluation, to add more police and fire personnel as appropriate if the City could find the money.

Council Member Uhlich said her motion was for public safety officers, to include police and fire.

Vice Mayor Trasoff said she understood what Council Member Leal had said. It had been an incredibly difficult year. Mayor and Council had the luxury for the last two years of having sufficient increases, to truly speak to their values by doing the sustainability, not only adding forty police officers each year and also a commensurate number of fire department personnel in the last two years, but also be able to pave streets, improve maintenance in the parks and some other things that spoke to what the City was, as a community. It was difficult and painful this year to not be able to continue that. The City was holding even and their commitment to not allow any slippage whatsoever in those areas was very important. Vice Mayor Trasoff said she hoped Tucson's bubble was different than the rest of the United States and it would all turn around soon. It would make everyone happier to go back to adding into the City's sustainability.

Council Member Romero said she appreciated what Council Member Uhlich added to the motion. She said she thought it was important that everyone knew it was a very difficult day and the Mayor and Council wanted to make sure that they let the City's public safety personnel know that they felt tremendously impacted by what had happened with the death of Tucson Police Officer Erik Hite. She said she thought it was important to talk about what the Mayor and Council could do at that time, which was not much in terms of giving raises to loyal people who worked for the City, expanding more of the transportation system, expanding KIDCO and enhancing it, and expanding the Schools Plus Jobs program and the Job Path Program. The City could not do all this, but wished it could.

Council Member Romero said she thought it was very important that the Mayor and Council made public safety a priority. They should continue looking and working as partners with public safety personnel, Tucson Police Officers Association (TPOA), and other labor unions in the City, to make sure that Tucson was a more solid city. The City should look for additional revenue streams to make sure the City was not on the same roller coaster every two to four years. Council Member Romero said she personally made the commitment to work with whoever wanted to partner with the City to make sure they were putting their money where their mouth was and working together to come up with long term solutions. She stated that was why she would be voting in favor of the motion; not because she felt completely confident, but because she liked the amendments Council Member Uhlich had added. She had not heard where the City would take from to make any additional raises. She knew for a fact that the rest of the departments in the City were tightening their belts. The City public safety departments were not moving with what they had at that time. Everyone was trying to pitch in and Council Member Romero said, as a City, they had to make sure they were not expending more than they could afford.

Council Member Glassman said, based on Council Member Uhlich's modification in regard to public safety, and seeing Richard Miranda, Assistant City Manager and staff liaison for the Mayor and Council Neighborhoods, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, he wanted to offer the Subcommittee, of which he, Vice Mayor Trasoff and Council Member Leal were members, would place this as a recurring agenda item for monthly meetings and have a dashboard every month starting in July 2008. The Subcommittee would keep track and figure out together over the coming months what the ratio of police to population meant.

Council Member Glassman also stated that he and Council Member Scott were involved in the National League of Cities and would be able to get outside research on what other cities were doing. He said he thought they would be able to formulate something that would truly help everyone expand his or her support for public safety. He believed the Mayor and Council were interested in more police officers and more fire fighters on Tucson's streets. He said he thought the City could do it and the Subcommittee would be the appropriate venue to track it and be diligent about it and be able to communicate with the Mayor and Council on the issue because it was important to all Tucsonans.

Council Member Scott said she thought there were still some opportunities that should be explored to find the funding necessary to support the sustainability plan recommended by the City Manager in 2006 and endorsed by a vote from the Mayor and Council. She said she believed her colleagues when they said they had struggled with all of the questions related to the budget, as she had. And no one should doubt the Mayor and Council's commitment to the City. Therefore, no one should interpret anything more from their vote versus hers, except to conclude a different path to solve the same problem.

Council Member Scott said for her, it had been a question of the roll of City government. There were certain services the public and taxpayers had the right to expect. Notwithstanding the Mayor and Council's belief that the many other services the City

funded and supported were important to the community, none were more critical than police and fire. She said what TPOA and the public safety people were asking for was consideration for the number of officers on the street and their wages.

Council Member Scott said she regretted that the Mayor and Council had passed a residency requirement for any new director to have to live within the City of Tucson. She said what that meant for the current police department and the highest level of commissioned personnel, was they were ineligible to become Chief of Police simply because twenty-five years ago the commissioned officers elected to live in a home they could afford and wanted to raise their children in a neighborhood they thought was good. Now, twenty-five years later, after serving the community, knowing the Tucson Police Department from stem to stern, very familiar with the community, and very familiar with how the community functioned, and what their role could be, it was with regret that she said the Mayor and Council should revise that particular stipulation. She said she thought the City deserved to have good people ready to stand in, but the Mayor and Council had said perhaps someone else would do a better job.

Council Member Uhlich asked Council Member Scott if she had any proposal to suggest at that time that would address the concern she was articulating with regard to public safety or more that the Mayor and Council could do. She would have loved to hear any suggestions of where Council Member Scott would recommend a cut or where she believed additional revenues could come forward. Council Member Uhlich thought the Mayor and Council would be anxious to hear that and more than open. She thought the challenge had been the ability to identify any such opportunity.

Council Member Glassman said the Mayor and Council all lived within the City and they all lived with the decisions they made as a Council through the services they received and through the community they were building. It was in the Mayor and Council Neighborhoods, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee meeting that someone said, "You start with leadership and you start by setting the example." Council Member Glassman said he was very proud of the Mayor and Council and the policy they had made and the fact that all City employees and all non-City employees were eligible to apply for all City positions the City of Tucson had. Mayor and Council had created a very sensitive policy that would allow, and hopefully enhance the ability, for individuals currently with the City to apply for leadership positions. He said he thought it was a good policy decision and wanted to comment in order to clarify that Council Member Scott said there were certain employees ineligible to apply, but anyone was eligible to apply for department head positions in the City.

Mayor Walkup asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a roll call vote.

Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Council Members Romero, Glassman, and Uhlich;
Vice Mayor Trasoff and Mayor Walkup

Nay: Council Members Scott and Leal

Resolution 20960, as amended, was declared passed and adopted by a roll call vote of 5 to 2.

3. ADJOURNMENT: 8:43 p.m.

Mayor Walkup announced the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council would be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 255 West Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 10th day of June, 2008, and certify that it is an accurate transcription.

DEPUTY CITY CLERK

RWR:kad:nc